

20 Aug 1869 site of 1869 Black Hawk  
Peace Treaty ✓

## JOSEPH STACY MURDOCK

112

### HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAIN



Joseph S. Murdock, first bishop in Heber, lived a most interesting and active life. He was born June 26, 1822, at Hamilton, Madison County, New York, and it was here that his father's family embraced Mormonism in 1836.

Some time after this the family started for the body of the Church, which at that time was located at Nauvoo, Illinois. By this time young Murdock was about 20 years of age. Before starting out with his father and other members of the family, he concluded he would marry, Miss Eunice Sweet was a noble young lady, who also believed in the new religion, and he proposed to her and they were married just prior to starting on their journey for Nauvoo, where they arrived in 1842, and met the Prophet Joseph Smith. Old father Murdock turned all his property over to the Church and in return received his "inheritance in Zion," under the direction of the prophet. Young Murdock became well acquainted with Joseph and Hyrum, often sitting under their teachings.

On March 21, 1843, he received his patriarchal blessing under the hands of Hyrum Smith. Among other things he was promised that he should have a numerous posterity, a very peculiar promise, since the young man had been married a number of years and his wife had, as yet, borne

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no children. In 1843 the young man was ordained a Seventy under the direction of the Prophet Joseph.

At the expulsion of the saints from Nauvoo, he, with his wife, mother, sister and two brothers, started for the Rocky Mountains, the father having died previous to the expulsion from the city. While the body of the Church was on the banks of the Missouri River, word came for 500 able-bodied men to go and fight the nation's battles with Mexico. Like a true patriot, Mr. Murdock turned his charge over to the care of one of his younger brothers, a mere lad, and volunteered his services to the country. Being an excellent hand with cattle, however, he was excused from military life and placed in charge of the cattle of those who joined the Mormon Battalion. He continued the journey across the plains arriving in Salt Lake Valley on September 22, 1847, when the new home of the saints was less than two months old.

In 1849 he was called by President Brigham Young to go back to Green River and assist the saints who were coming to Zion. The year 1852 came, and still Mr. Murdock was childless. But in the fall of 1852 the young man took a second wife. His wife Eunice gave her husband the hand of Miss Eliza Clark, by whom he had two children. He married again, this time taking two wives, Jane Sharp and Elizabeth Hunter, and in 1858 he married Permetta Murdock, an Indian girl.

In 1856, President Young called him to take his family and assist in settling Carson Valley. When word reached President Young, in 1857, that Johnston's army was on its way to Utah, the Carson Valley settlers were called back to Salt Lake City. In the fall of that year he took his family and located in American Fork.

On November 15, 1860 he was ordained a bishop under the hands of Brigham Young and sent to preside over the people who were locating Wasatch County, and, therefore, was first bishop of Heber. While acting in that capacity he served one term as representative of the county in the territorial legislature. In 1867 he, with others, was called to settle St. Joe on the Muddy Nevada. He remained there three years, when he was released by President Young to return home to Provo Valley. While on

his way home he secured a contract from the government for carrying the mail from Provo to Echo, via Provo Canyon, and continued in this business for a number of years. He was a pioneer in every sense of the word, always engaged in building up new country and making peace with the Indians. He had a magnetic influence over the redmen, who would always listen to him.

In 1889 he was arraigned before Judge Blackburn at Provo for infringement of the Edmunds-Tucker law. His first wife had died years before, and he was advised to marry one of his plural wives and repudiate the others. He was a firm believer in the principle of "plural marriage," and obeyed the principle feeling from the depths of his heart it was of God, and no man could persuade him to repudiate any of his wives. They had been true to him, and he could not go back on the sacred promises he made with them in the days of their youth. He was sentenced to a term of one month in the territorial penitentiary for unlawful cohabitation. The aged gentleman by this time had fully convinced the judge of his honesty. Committal papers were handed him and he was allowed to go from the courtroom unattended by guard. He went back home to visit his family, then went down to Salt Lake and presented his own committal papers at the penitentiary, was taken in, and served out his sentence of one month.

In the days of the Black Hawk troubles, Mr. Murdock took a leading hand in settling the Indian uprisings of those days. When Wasatch Stake was organized he was made president of the High Council, which position he held at the time of his death. He always manifested implicit confidence in Mormonism, even to the hour of his death. He was the husband of five wives, the father of 32 children, and he had 137 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, a total posterity of 175, so he lived to see the words of Patriarch Hyrum Smith fulfilled to the very letter.

#### ELIZABETH HUNTER MURDOCK

Elizabeth Hunter Murdock, wife of Joseph Stacy Murdock was born on April 1839, in Clackmannshire,



land, the third daughter of Robert and Agnes Hunter. The parents enjoyed a happy life, except for a difference in their religious views. When the Mormon missionaries preached the gospel to Agnes, she accepted it, but was rejected by her family, particularly two brothers who were Methodist ministers. This viewpoint on the part of the brothers intrigued Robert, and he investigated the Church and joined, uniting the family religiously.

Desiring to come to Zion, the Hunter family began saving and planning. Agnes and her children came first, leaving Robert behind to dispose of the home and store. They sailed on September 4, 1850, from Liverpool, traveling to New Orleans, and from there to St. Louis. They settled in a little mining town of Gravies to wait for their husband and father. But within a year, Agnes died, leaving the four children, ages 16 to 6, all alone. Their uncle, Adam Hunter, soon arrived from Scotland, only to bring word of the illness and death of the father. One of the girls went to Utah with her Uncle Adam, and the others later came with David Love, who married the oldest of the girls. During the trip across the plains, Elizabeth had to watch over her little brother, Jimmy, and care for the family cow. She walked the entire distance to Utah barefoot. They arrived in Salt Lake on August 15, 1852.

Elizabeth found work in a number of the homes of the saints, and also renewed a friendship with a girl friend from Scotland, Jane Sharp. She and Jane were married to Joseph Murdock on June 11, 1854. With her husband and his wives, Jane went to Carson, Nevada, on a colonizing mission for the Church, and then, with the threat of Johnston's army in Utah, they returned the next year and settled in Amer-

ican Fork. The families prospered here for four years, and in 1860 Elizabeth went with her husband to Heber, where he was called as bishop. They later went to southern Nevada on what was called the "muddy mission," to help settle Dixie and start raising cotton.

Elizabeth and her family had a difficult time in the "Muddy" area. The land was hard and untillable, and the food was coarse and tasteless. They thought they were in Utah, but when it was learned the land was in Nevada, and when Arizona also tried to claim the land, the settlers were instructed by President Brigham Young to settle elsewhere. Elizabeth returned to Heber, where she lived among family and friends for the rest of her life. She was always active in the Church, and the Relief Society was her special joy. She served in every ward capacity and was in the presidency of the Stake Relief Society, traveling by carriage and buggy to visit all the wards.

At 75, Elizabeth broke her leg and the doctors told her she would never walk again, but she mustered up determination and, with the help of a crutch, was able to walk everywhere. Her love of cooking and of books kept her busy throughout her life. In her declining years she sold her home and built an apartment on the side of her daughter Anne's home, where she happily lived until her ninety sixth year, dying at home on June 11, 1935.

#### JANE SHARP MURDOCK

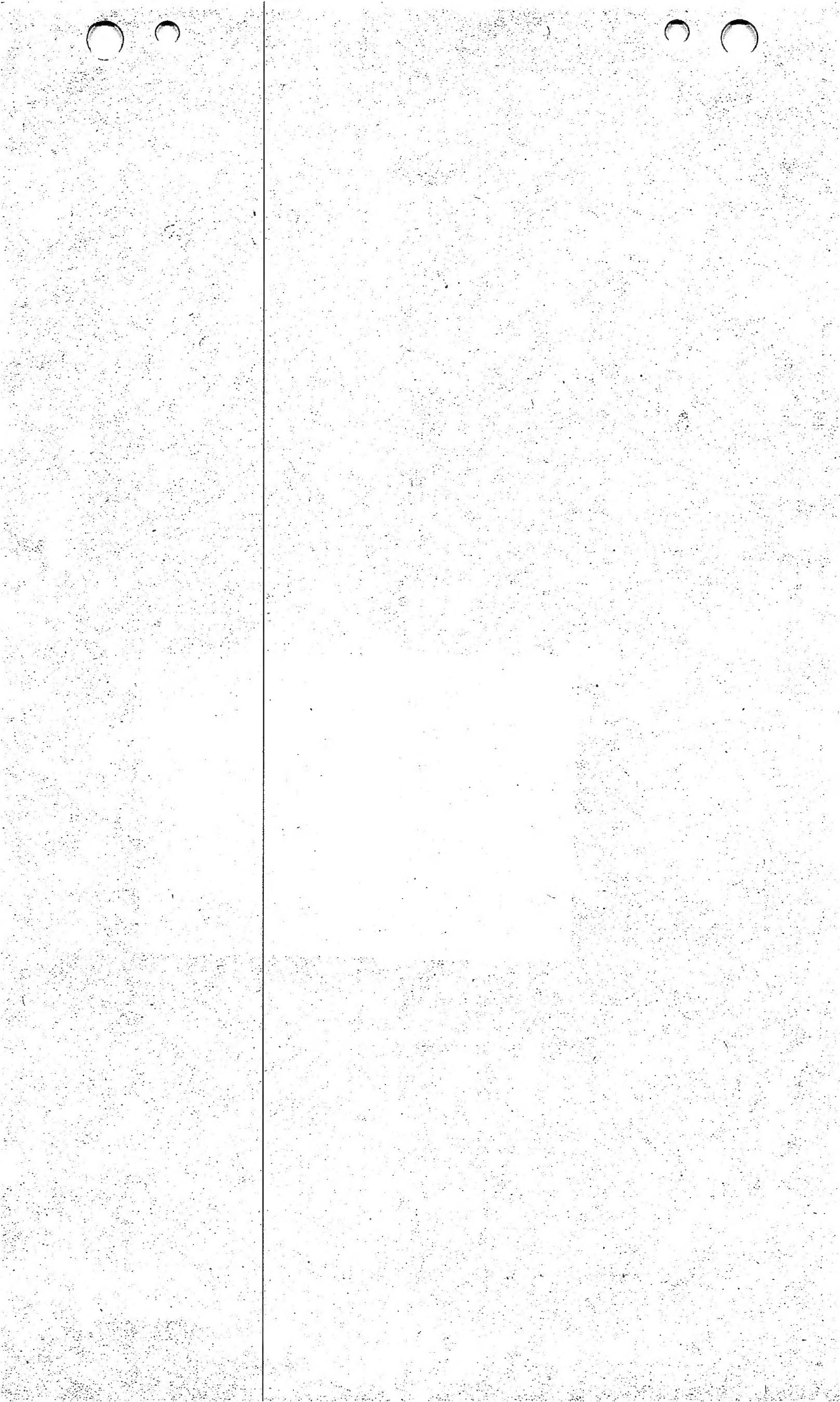
In Scotland "a wee bonnie lassie," Jane Sharp was born to Nathaniel and Cecelia Sharp on April 13, 1838, in a small town called Sterling.

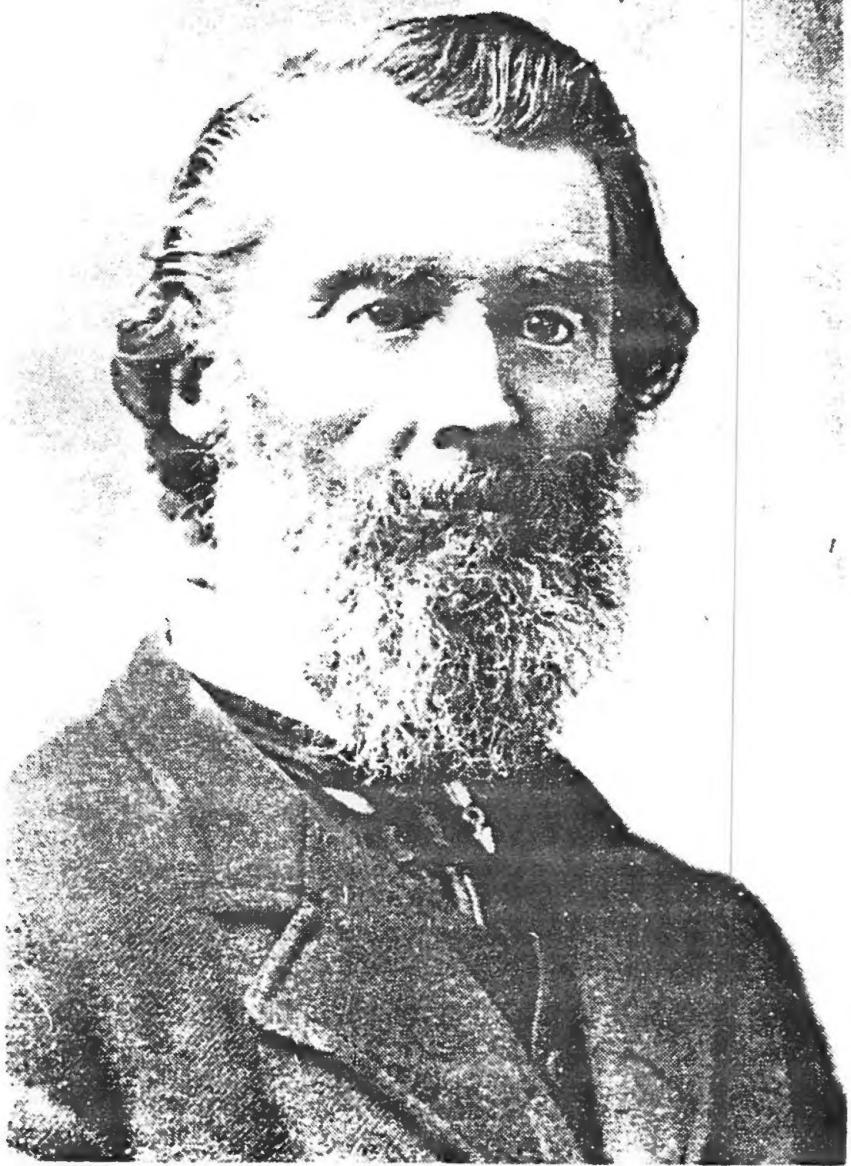
The father worked in the mines. The miners lived in apartments furnished by the mine owners. The Sharp family and the Hunter family lived across the hall from each other and Jane Sharp and Elizabeth Hunter became fast friends. This friendship lasted all the days of their lives.

After some years, Nathaniel Sharp contracted miner's consumption and passed away after a long and painful illness, leaving his wife and children alone. She later married Gibson Condie. The Hunter family and the Cecelia Sharp Condie family left their native land to come to Zion after ac-

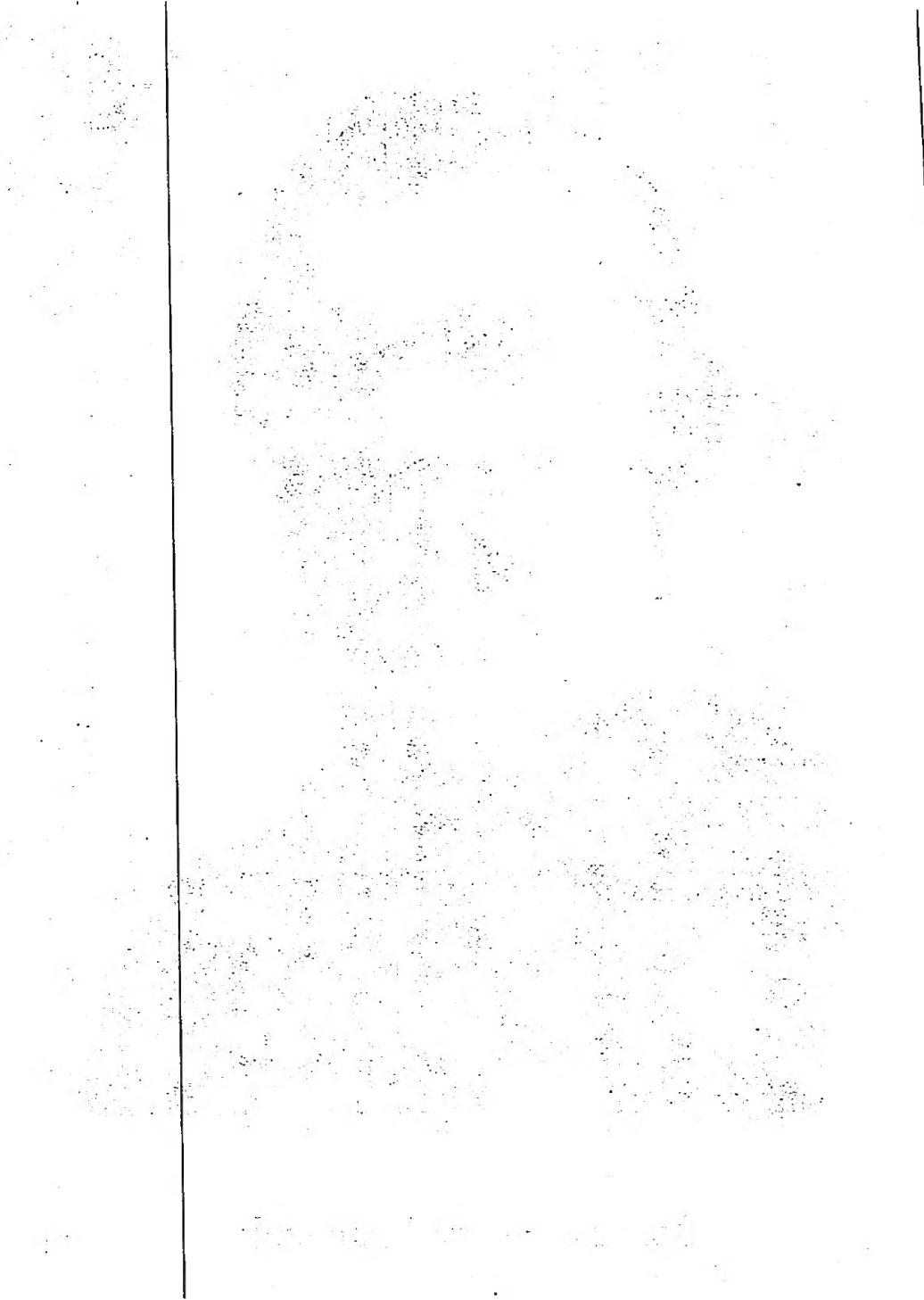


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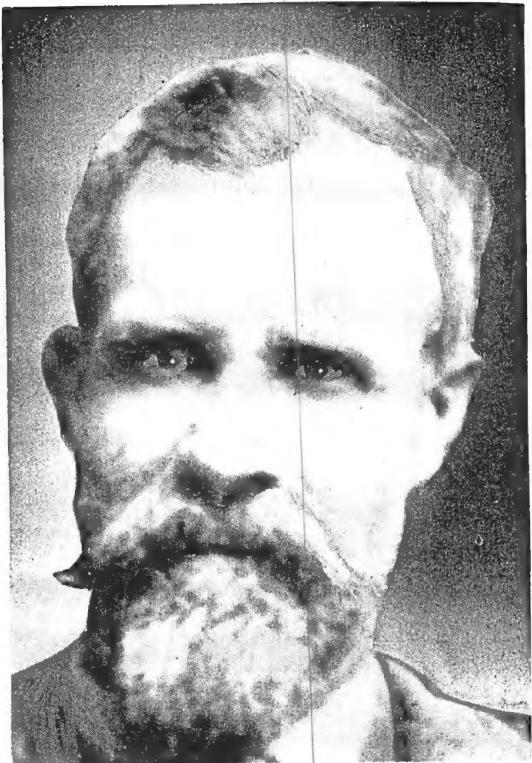


**Joseph Stacy Murdock**  
Pioneer - Colonizer - Peacemaker





Chief Tabby



Joseph S. McDonald

"UNDER WASATCH SKIES"

